A SALUTATION OF *Dear and tender Love to* THE Seed of God Arising in ABERDEEN, *IN TWO EPISTLES.*

Directed unto Friends of truth in that Place, whom the Lord hath called, and is calling forth to bear their Testimony for his Glorious Truth, (against an evil, adulterous, and Persecuting Generation) with others their dear Friends in these Nations.

Writ by *George Keith* Prisoner for the said Testimony in the Tolbooth of *Aberdeen.*

Isa. 60. 22. *A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong Nation, I the Lord will hasten it in his time.*

Isa. 30. 17. *One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee, till ye be left as a Beacon upon the top of a Mountain, & as an ensign on a hill.*

Isa 62. 1. *For Zions sake will I not hold my peace, and for* Jerusalems *sake I will not rest, untill the Righteousness thereof, go forth as brightness, and the Salvation thereof as a Lamp that burneth.*

Isa 62. 10, 11, 12. *Go thorough, go thorough the gates, prepare you the way of the People, cast up, cast up the high way, gather out the stones, lift up a Standard for the People. Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed to the ends of the world, say ye to the Daughter of Zion, behold thy Salvation cometh; behold his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they shall call them the holy People, the redeemed of the Lord, and thou shalt be called sought out, a City not forsaken.*

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To Friends in Aberdeen.

Dear Friends,

THere is a precious Seed among you, in love to which ſeveral of the Lords Servants have been drawn to come and viſit the Seed, & preach the Everlaſting Goſpel thereto, which is the power of God unto Salvation; and the Seed hath been reached, and we have been made manifeſt in your Conſciences, the witneſs of God in your Conſciences hath anſwered our Teſtimony that we are of God, and that which we declared unto you, was not a cunningly deviſed Fable, but the living Truth of the Living God, which hath been revealed to us, and which we have learned from the Spirit of Truth, and our Teſtimony among you hath been, that the Son of God is come, and his Kingdom revealed with power and great Glory, even the Kingdom of God, which is Righteouſneſs, peace and joy in the Holy Ghoſt, and now hath the Sun of Righteouſneſs ariſen with healing under his wings, and the glorious light thereof hath ſhined forth upon the Earth, and the Inhabitants thereof, after the long dark night of Apoſtacy that hath been; wherein many poor things who have had true breathings and deſires after the Lord, have lamented after him, and ſought him whom their ſouls loved, and longed for, but could not find him; and the thick *Egiptian* darkneſs hath choaked them, and the living breathings in many hath been ſuffocated and killed, and *Babylon* the mother of Fornications hath bewitched the whole Earth with the cup of her Sorceries, who hath given her ſelf forth to be the Church and ſpouſe of Chriſt, but indeed a Harlot; and her Merchants who have handed forth the Cup of her abominations have paſt in this time of darkneſs and ignorance for the Miniſters of Chriſt, and Paſtors of the flock, now it pleaſed the Lord out of his rich mercy and love a hundred years ago, or thereby, to ſend forth ſome beams of his Heavenly light into the Souls of people, whereby the more groſs abominations of the Whore were diſcovered and quit; and no queſtion many have been accepted of the Lord in that day according to their faithfulneſs: But alaſs, there hath been a great backſliding, and defection ſince, which

which ſome of the Lords ſervants then ſaw, that it would come, and that Chriſt ſhould be again crucified in *Scotland*; and now its my Teſtimony, and the teſtimony of hundreds and thouſands that he is again ariſen in this *Iſland*, and in other parts of the Earth, and all the wit and policy of Sathan and his Inſtruments ſhall not be able to hold him from the ſetting up of his Kingdom in the Earth, Truth is planted and taken root in the Earth, yea even in *Scotland*, and it ſhall grow and proſper, and ſpread and fill the Earth, and every Plant which is not of the Lords planting ſhall be rooted out, and their folly ſhall be made manifeſt to all, who ſet themſelves againſt the truth. And Friends, think it not ſtrange that truth hath ſuch oppoſition from many who have even had a great profeſſion thereof, this day hath abundantly diſcovered them, that their glorying hath been but in the fleſh, and that they are not come to live in the truth, but have had the form of Godlineſs, and denyed (yea been altogether ſtrangers unto) the power thereof; now they not being in the truth, which is living, and gives the diſcerning but in the form of it, which is but a dead thing, how could they but ‖ misken truth in its appearance, and the children and veſſels thereof, and yet there is a pretious ſeed even in many hundreds, which the Lord will raiſe up in his own appointed time, who may be for the preſent through ignorance, and their being deceived with falſe appearances, enemies to truth, and reproachers of it. Now the faithful teſtimony of ſuch whom the Lord hath gathered, and is gathering into the truth, ſhall have a ſhril and loud ſound even to the awakening and quickning of ſuch, and they ſhall be made to build up, that which once they were endeavouring to deſtroy. And therefore dear Friends, be faithful to the Lord God in your teſtimony for his truth in every particular, according to the knowledge thereof, which ye have received from God, for thereby ye ſhall both ſave your ſelves and others, having the eye of your ſouls continually fixed upon the Lord to ſee whither he will farther lead you, being reſolved (and reſigned up to him) even to follow whatſoever he leads, though it may be much in the croſs to fleſh and blood; for this I teſtifie unto you, that its ſuch, and ſuch only, who are of that ſpirit (whereof honeſt *Joſhua* and *Caleb* were) to follow the Lord fully even in all things to the leaſt circumſtance of his requirings, who ſhall get an entrance into the bleſſed Land of promiſe, wherein to many can ſet to their ſeal, and witneſs it, that they have entred

‖ *Or not Know.*

(among whom I am one) even into that good Land that floweth with milk and honey, yea with ſtreams of joy, peace, and conſolation from the preſence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power, and this you ſhall all come to witneſs in your ſelves in the Lords good time, as you keep faithful to him, and grow up more and more in a reſignation to his will in all things, ſparing nothing, againſt which the Lords controverſie and indignation is, but giving up all to a hope that's contrary to his will, that it may be burnt up, and ſlain by the judgment of the Lord, and you delivered therefrom, for this is only that which ſtands in the way, and lets your entrance into Gods Kingdom, even ſomewhat more or leſs, that is contrary to the holy and pure nature of God, and againſt his will cleaved unto, and lived in, which till ye be rid of; the flaming ſword will turn every way againſt you, ſo that ye cannot get into the Paradice of God, though ye ſhould never ſo earneſtly deſire it. And ſuch of you whom the Lord hath in ſome meaſure perſwaded to quit many things, and ye purpoſe to quit more, as he ſhall diſcover them to be evil unto you; faint not in your minds, though ye cannot get the deſires of your minds and ſouls accompliſhed, and though ye cannot ſee the good Land, nor get ſo much as a taſt of the Wine that grows there: I ſay faint not, nor be diſcouraged, for a day of bleſſed refreſhment from the Lord is abiding you, wherein ye ſhall ſee the King of Glory in his beauty, and ye ſhall be made to drink of the river of his pleaſure, and to eat of the feaſt of fat things upon the mountain of the Lord, and the Wine well refined from the lees ſhall be given unto you, even the new Wine in the Fathers Kingdom, and ye ſhall eat and drink, and praiſe the name of the Lord, which I declare unto you not of my ſelf, but of the Lord, who hath brought me (through the riches of his goodneſs) to know ſuch a ſtate in a meaſure, and hath ſhed abroad his love in my heart, in the which love I have felt the bowels of the Lords compaſſion flowing forth towards you alſo, and the bleſſings of Gods heavenly Kingdom ready to be ſhowred down upon you, which ye ſhall come to know when that which lets ſhall be taken out of the way, for ye muſt paſs through the judgment of the Lord, and be rid of all that cannot dwell with everlaſting burnings, for our God is a conſuming fire, and the throne of iniquity can have no fellowſhip with him, and the Lord is to try you with a Wilderneſs, even a dry and barren Land, wherein is no water, whereby your deſires after him may be the more enlivened

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and enlarged, and your faith and patience must be tryed (which hath been the Lords dealing with us also, for which be endless glory and praise unto his Name) and there in the Wilderness he will allure you, and speak comfortably unto you, and give you Vineyards from thence, and the Valley of *Achor* for a door of hope: Therefore, think not strange of the fiery trial, which shall try you, wherein the Lord will plead with all that is of Flesh within you, and ye must be brought down to the Valley of *Jehoshaphat*, which is as much as the Valley of *decision*, or off-cuting, wherein ye must come to know the Circumcision, even the cutting off of that which is but flesh, before you enter the promised Land, and the Sun must be turned into darkness, and the Moon loose her light before the notable day of the Lord come, and all that hath been the delight of your eyes must be taken from you, and you left stript and naked, as in the day ye were born, and then will the Lord cast the skirts of his love over you, and say unto you, *live*, and ye shall live, and ye shall become beautiful with his comeliness, that he shall put upon you, even the robes of his unspoted Righteousness, and the garments of his Salvation, wherewith ye shall be cloathed, and in that day ye shall understand the sence and meaning of these Scriptures, that *blessed are the poor, for their's is the Kingdom of Heaven*, and *blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*, and *that God is truly good to Israel, even to such as are upright in heart.* And dear Friends, as I have spoke unto you, so it is in my heart to put you again [by writing] in remembrance thereof, though ye may know it, how that the Lord is making a narrow and deep search in this day, even beyond what hath been these many ages ago, he is now arisen to take vengeance upon the many inventions with which he hath borne long, and hath winked at them (so to speak) in the dayes of ignorance, and hath suffred many even of the faithful in former dayes to keep many things, against which the Lord hath pronounced his indignation in this day, for now is the day broken up, and the Sun arisen, and the more refined garments of the Whore, which formerly past for upright in the twy-light, are now discerned to be but counterfeit, and blessed are they, and shall be who are made willing to see, and seeks not to cover or spare what the Lord requires to be given up, and parted with, though it be a hard thing for flesh and blood, but I can assure you the love of God when ye come to feel it shed abroad in your hearts, will a thousand fold recompense all that ye can forsake for his names sake, & the reproach of

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Christ shall become unto you more pretious then all the treasures of *Egipt*. And as I have formerly told you; so it is with me again to remind you, even to exercise all forbearance in all things, but in so far as it lies upon you from the Lord, according to the manifestation of his light and spirit in your hearts; ceasing, ceasing, forever from every thing, but what ye manifestly know to be agreeable with the Lords will, not hazarding to be found in any thing whatsoever, because ye see it not evil or sinful; nay, that is not enough, the path and way of God is yet narrower, though large and broad enough to the children of God, even to let things alone, but as you see them in the openings and manifestation of the Spirit of life within you to be good, innocent, profitable, suitable to truth, so that you favour a good savour in them, and others of the Lords children with you, this ends all disputations and reasonings, and here is peace, joy, liberty, even true Christian liberty and freedom, yea, victory and Dominion; whereas to do things not knowing the Lords will and approbation therein, is but at best to do doubtingly, and such are condemned, and weakness and confusion enters them, and the seed of God is burdened; yea, I say it again, blessed are they who are come here even to be afraid to medle with any thing though never so plausible in the eyes of men, but as they find and feel in themselves the approbation and allowance of the Lords Spirit therein, else to forbear, and let alone, even to take up the cross to every work and word, yea to every desire and thought of the heart, which is not manifestly known to be of the Lord, the blessed experience whereof, I have often found, and daily finds, waiting and earnestly desiring of the Lord that the mystery of his Cross I may more and more learn, that I may become crucified even to all that is of the World, and alive to him, ceasing from my own works, not being able to do, nor daring to do any thing without him, which is not only my testimony, but the testimony of all that are come to live in any measure of truth. And dear Friends, keep to any measure of testimony ye have attained unto, for I can say it, the Lord regards the same, and it hath a good savour before him, and grow up in faithfulness and resignation to the Lord in all things; for this is it which makes your testimony strong, and valid, and acceptable to God, that it be universal in every circumstance, that the enemy have nothing wherewith to charge you, and this is it which will make you able to stand it out in the day of tryal, the having your loynes girded

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about with truth, having truth to encompass you round, you being found in the truth in all things, but who are out of truth in any thing though never so small, heere there is an open to let in the enemy, and it will be hard for such to stand. And Friends, let not the terror of your enemies affright you from keeping your Meetings, but sanctifie the Lord God in your hearts, and let him be your fear, and this will put away the fear of man that shall die, and become as the dust of the earth, and as you assemble together in Gods fear and name, and in true love one with another, the Lord will be among you, and ye shall be made to feel his living presence, and he will shew you where he feedeth his flock, and makes it rest at noon-day, and he will bring you into the banqueting house, and display the banner of his love over you, and make you a terror to your enemies. And I have felt the sweet blessing and presence of God among you, and I can assure you his Salvation is near to come, and his Righteousness to be revealed to the upright and single hearted: And keep your Meetings in the silence of all flesh, and the shout of the King the Lord of Hosts shall be heard among you, and he will give in due time the opening of the mouth in the midst of you. And dear Friends, my love in the bowels of Jesus Christ is towards you all, and with a sweet measure of his blessed presence have I largely written unto you, and the Lord is with me by night and by day, and makes my Prison very acceptable to me, Farewell dear Friends.

From the Tolbooth of Aberdeen *the 9th of the 10th Mont.* 1664.

Your very dear and loving Friend, George Keith.

As it may conveniently be done, I am willing that this be read among Friends met together.

For Friends in Aberdeen *to be read in their Meeting.*

Dear Friends,

BLessed, blessed is the opportunity, the Lord is putting in your hands to bear a Testimony for his Name, and living glorious Truth in this day. O be faithful to him, and rich shall be your reward, rich, unspeakably rich, even beyond what eye can see, or ear hear, or the heart be able to comprehend, the love of God, which passeth knowledge, the peace that passeth understanding, the joy unspeakable, and full of glory, the portion of such: the joy as in the time of harvest, or as when the strong divide the spoile. Oh who can declare the blessed lot and inheritance that shall be given them who give up all, sparing nothing, nothing to a hoof, or Piu point, which the Lord requires to be delivered, and parted with, assuredly they shall obtain an hundred fold in this life, and life eternal for ever more. Dear Friends, thus I write who in this day, and dayly do witness, the hundreth fold, do possess it, even

even the love, the joy, the peace of God, which is my ſtrength, my portion, my crown, which none can take from me, ſo that I am made to ſing in a Priſon; even in a Priſon the Lines are fallen to me in a pleaſant place, I have a good heritage: And this is the doing of the Lord, and it's wondrous in mine eyes, I am even as one that dreames, Glory to his Name for ever, for his unſpeakable gift, and rich mercy, and free love, which hath viſited my poor ſoul, ſhut up in the blackneſs of darkneſs, the region and ſhadow of death, the Pit wherein is no water: the hand of love hath reached me, and brought me out of the woful Priſon, and looſed my bands, and delivered my ſoul, and given me to drink of the Cup of Salvation, and now hereto do I ſet my ſeal: worthy, worthy is the Lamb; to ſuffer for, ignominy, reproach, hatred (even of the deareſt relations) perſecution, priſonment, killing, tortering, or what ever the cruelty of Man can be permitted to inflict: Worthy is he for his ſake to be killed all the day long, and counted as Sheep for the ſlaughter, his Love will ſweetly recompence all: and worthy is he to be waited for, to be credited and truſted, and believed in, and in and through the faith, and hope, which entreth through the dark and thick vail, which may be over for the time, ſo that little or no ſenſible enjoyment is perceived, yet even then, in and through the faith (the believing when there is not a ſeeing or poſſeſſing) to adventure upon the Lord, and to follow him, carrying his Croſs, and his reproach: The Lord is neer to ſuch, with inviſible, inſenſible ſupport, and refreſhment, which though the Veſſels feel it not, yet the ſeed doth, and light is ſown, which ſhall ſpring up, and in due time become a Fountain, a Well-ſpring of endleſs joy and conſolation, the glorious Lord a place of broad Rivers, this I do declare for the comfort of the ſingle, ſimple, upright hearted. The Child of Light, walking for the preſent in darkneſs, the Seed having ſore and grievous travel through the many impediments, and lets, in its way to the God of its life. O truſt in the Lord, truſt in his name, truſt, though ſhut up in the Caves of the Earth, truſt though hedged up as it were with hewen ſtone, truſt, truſt, though in the belly of Hell, the Whales belly, poor diſtreſſed *Jonah* ſhall come to land, the Seed ſhall be redeemed, that which mourneth ſhall obtain joy and gladneſs, and come to *Zion* with Songs of deliverance, and ſorrow and ſighing ſhall flee away: Yea, let the ſingle-hearted truſt in the Lord; be *ſtrong, be ſtrong, ſtrengthen the weak hands, confirm the feeble knees*; hath the God of my life ſaid unto me, and given a word in ſeaſon to the weary diſtreſſed Soul. Even God who hath ſhewed my ſelf ſore and great trouble, and now hath raiſed me up from the gates of death, and girded me with gladneſs, and comforted me on every ſide, that with the comfort wherewith I am comforted of him, I may comfort others, that they may thereein partake with me. And dear Friends, as far as in you lies, remove every heavy burden that lies upon the ſeed in your own particulars, if ye (any of you) be found in the leaſt jot or circumſtance in any thing, which the light of Chriſt in its manifeſtation in the heart diſcovers to be ſinful. Oh this will be a mountain on the ſeed, yea, the being but found in whatſoever, ye do not know your approbation, juſtification of God in the manifeſtation; will lie upon the ſeed, as a talent of lead, therefore come into obedience in all things, come into forbearance, come into the cleanly well ordered converſation, come into a final, total deciſion of all particulars betwixt God & your ſouls, & I can aſſure you his Salvation is neer to ſuch, & his righteouſneſs, and the Kingdom which comes with power and great glory is at hand, even at hand to be revealed unto them.

The 22 of the 11 *month* 1664. 5 NO 58 *This from your dear Friend,*

George Keith.